



LINCOLN COLLEGE OXFORD

# LINCOLN

UNLOCKED



*The Lincoln College Centre for Archives,  
Books, and Collections*



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD



## *The Lincoln College Centre for Archives, Books, and Collections*

*Lincoln Unlocked* is a new academic and research centre which has been established to support and encourage the study of historic collections. Its aim is to foster interdisciplinary research on private and institutional collections, by drawing on Lincoln's own resources and expertise.

Lincoln College, Oxford is in an ideal position to support research of this kind. At the heart of the Centre is the College's own collections of books and archive materials, which date back to its foundation in 1427. Within its comparatively untouched original buildings, the College holds an unusually complete run of administrative records from the time of its foundation onwards; its Senior Library is home to unique collections, including manuscripts, incunabula, and early printed books; while other interesting materials include a small but first-rate collection of historic plate. These resources are ripe for interdisciplinary study and for use as a teaching model for similar enterprises both in the UK and internationally.

Benefitting from an academic community with expertise in a range of related disciplines, *Lincoln Unlocked* provides a valuable educational and academic resource using both traditional and new technologies, and innovative approaches.

*Lincoln Unlocked* has been established through philanthropic support from a number of individuals, trusts, and foundations. We hope to build on this success to fund work on the collections and to support the aims of the Centre.

*Below (l-r): College name appearing in the Vetus Registrum, 1472-c1640; Detail from the 14th-century Lincoln Apocalypse (Lincoln College MS lat 16).*





## Scholarship and research: Lincoln's *Hebraica*

Among the treasures of the Senior Library is its collection of *Hebraica* and *Judaica*. Although the collection is relatively small (just over 400 works in Hebrew and Aramaic with related works in Latin and Greek), it is one of the most remarkable of its kind, not only for its range and depth, but for the insight it provides into the study of Hebrew in Oxford in the 17th century and the work of a generation of Hebraists across Europe.

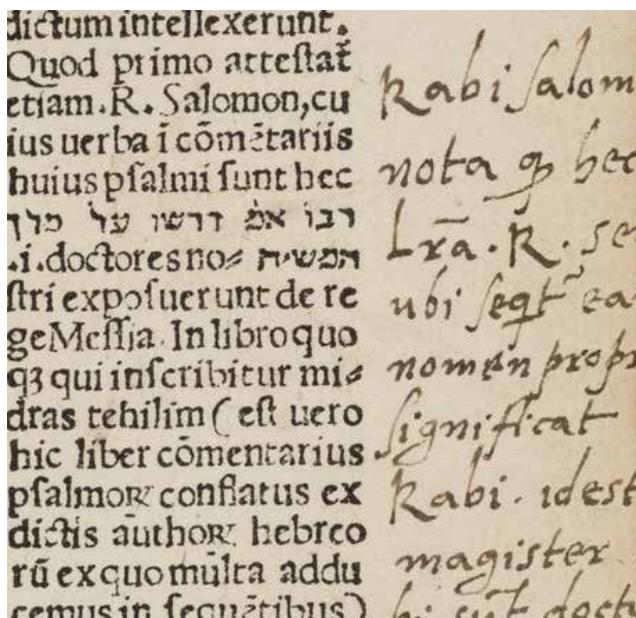
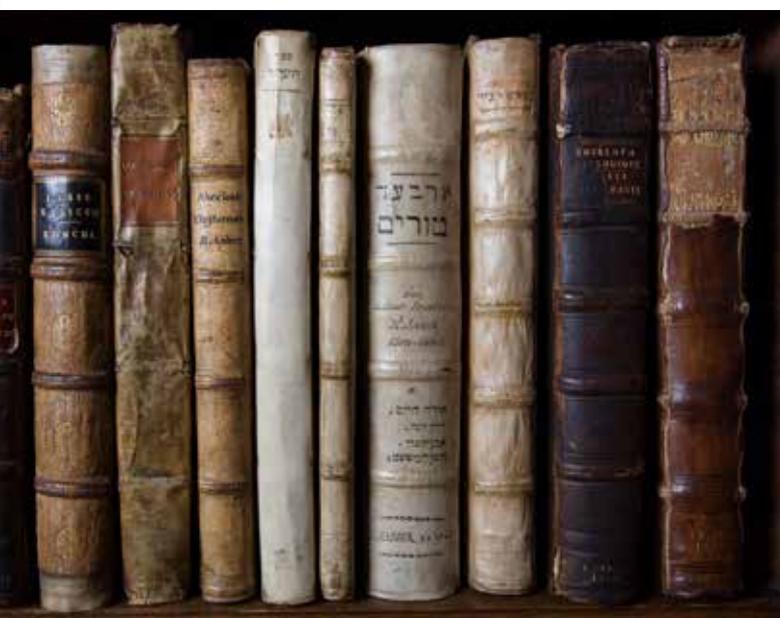
*Thanks to a generous donation from the John S. Cohen Foundation, the Lincoln Hebraica collection has now been catalogued and is fully available to scholars. Lincoln Unlocked now aims to promote the study of this valuable collection further by digitising and exhibiting some of the rarer volumes to make them accessible to a wider range of readers.*

Above (l-r): Text and seal from the Lincoln College Foundation Charter, 1427; Cartouche from a College estate plan with John Wesley's walking stick.  
Below (l-r): Books from Lincoln's collection of *Hebraica* and *Judaica*; Annotations in Thomas Marshall's copy of the first polyglot Psalter (Genoa, 1516).

## The development of a collection: the earliest donations to the Library and the election registers

Lincoln was founded in 1427, and by the beginning of the 16th century had one of the finest collections of printed books and manuscripts in Oxford after the University Library. The quality of the Lincoln Library was largely the result of three important donations: by the founder, Richard Fleming and his nephew Robert Fleming, both in the 15th century, and by Edmund Audley, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1518. These donations are recorded in the College archive: in early library catalogues, College inventories, and in the 'election registers' (lists of books borrowed by College members).

*This archival evidence, as well as the evidence found in the books themselves, is an important source for the study of the early history of an Oxford college, as well as the intellectual history of England in the 15th and early 16th centuries. Lincoln Unlocked seeks funds to develop a comprehensive catalogue of the manuscripts and early printed books related to these donations and to digitise and conserve the registers in which they are recorded.*





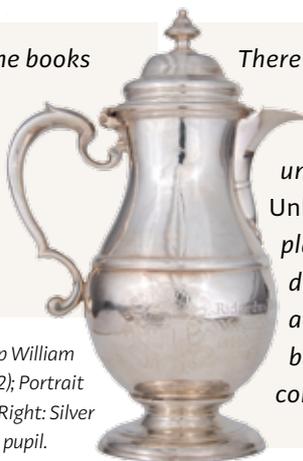
## The interdisciplinary model: John Wesley at Lincoln

John Wesley was a Fellow of Lincoln from 1726 to 1751, and the College’s historic collections provide a glimpse into a period of his life which has been relatively unstudied. The collections include archival material that records Wesley’s activities while at Lincoln, the plate given by his students, the College’s collection of Wesley portraits and other commemorative art, the rooms he lived in during his fellowship, and the books in the Wesley collection. By looking at these artefacts not individually but as part of a whole, *Lincoln Unlocked* aims to shed new light on the life and work of this important figure.

## Digital futures, global reach

Using new technologies to explore it, the material in the College’s diverse collections is relevant to local, national, and global audiences. The Archive already facilitates research for individuals both in person and remotely across the world, and provides digital images on an *ad hoc* basis. Recent research includes: 20th-century politics making use of Old Members’ papers, women’s history uncovered through medieval wills, labour history using the College accounts, economic history based on the analysis of leases across several centuries, and public rights of way documented in centuries of estate maps and plans.

*Lincoln Unlocked intends to catalogue the books and pamphlets in the Wesley collection, many of them unique, to foster research into our collection of Wesleyana, and to facilitate conservation and digitisation of the College Registers which cover the period of Wesley’s fellowship.*



*There is tremendous scope to develop the digital offering so people can access this unique range of materials and its hitherto unknown international relevance. Lincoln Unlocked seeks support to develop a carefully planned programme of selective cataloguing, digitisation, and conservation to enable access that is wider and easier for scholars, but also safer for delicate and frequently consulted items.*

Above (l-r): Armorial binding from the library of Archbishop William Laud; Suitcase of clippings, Denis Hills’ collection (PPE 1932); Portrait of John Wesley, after John Michael Williams (1710-c.1780). Right: Silver jug given to the College by Richard Morgan, John Wesley’s pupil.

To make a gift to *Lincoln Unlocked*, please fill in this form and return it to The Development Office, Lincoln College, Turl Street, Oxford OX1 3DR.

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## Discover: *Lincoln Unlocked* online

The Centre's website, available at [www.lincoln.ox.ac.uk/lincoln-unlocked](http://www.lincoln.ox.ac.uk/lincoln-unlocked), contains more information about the Centre and Lincoln's historic collections, describes current projects, and advertises upcoming events. There is also an online exhibition on John Wesley at Lincoln with future exhibitions currently planned.

On *The Press* blog, we post regular updates about our work and the treasures that are being discovered as well as scholarly articles on particular aspects of the collections. You can find this at [www.lincolncollegeseniorklibrary.wordpress.com/](http://www.lincolncollegeseniorklibrary.wordpress.com/).

An important aspect of our work is the cataloguing of the collections, to make them accessible both within and beyond Oxford. New records that contain detailed bibliographical and provenance information on books in the Senior Library will be added to the Oxford online catalogue, SOLO, while it is intended that materials in the Archives will be made available through The National Archives Discovery search tool. We aim to develop our online presence through more cataloguing as well as through digitisation of rare and fragile material.

Above (l-r): *The Press* blog; ; Erasmus' edition of Aristotle's Works (Basel, 1549); Hand-coloured page from Flavio Biondo, *Roma instaurata* (Venice, 1481).

## DIRECTORS AND ACADEMIC FELLOWS

### Co-Directors

Professor R.R.R. Smith FBA, *Lincoln Professor of Archaeology and Fellow Librarian*

Professor Peter McCullough, *Sohmer Fellow in English Literature and Fellow Archivist*

### Academic Fellows

Dr Irene Ceccherini, *Lyell-Bodleian Research Fellow in Manuscript Studies and Dilts Research Fellow*

Dr Cristina Dondi, *PI 15cBOOKTRADE, Oakeshott Senior Research Fellow in the Humanities*

Dr Robert McNamee, *Director, Electronic Enlightenment Project, Bodleian Libraries*

Mr Nigel Wilson FBA, *Fellow and Tutor in Classics (Emeritus)*

Professor H.R. Woudhuysen FBA, *Rector of Lincoln College*

### Library and Archive Staff

Dr Sarah Cusk, *Antiquarian Cataloguer*

Mrs Lindsay McCormack, *Archivist*

Mrs Fiona Piddock, *Librarian*

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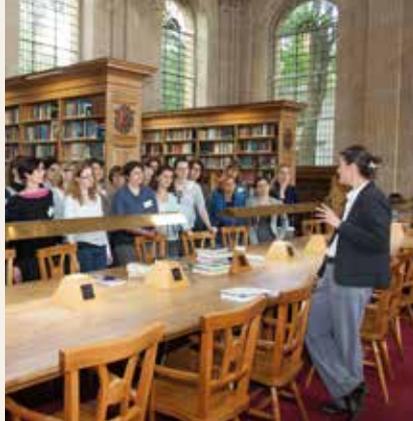


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One of the core aims of *Lincoln Unlocked* is to make the collection accessible and to make use of its resources for both practical and academic research and study.

## Summer School

The first History of Libraries Summer School, *The Application of the Digital Humanities to the Transmission, Preservation and Dispersal of the European Written Heritage between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, was held at Lincoln College in July 2016. Jointly sponsored by the European Research Council's project '15cBOOKTRADE', the Summer School explored new tools and resources for scholars and librarians. Tutors included: Cristina Dondi (15cBOOKTRADE), Richard Ovenden (Bodley's Librarian), Ian Maclean (Professor of Renaissance Studies, All Souls College), Richard Sharpe (Professor of Diplomatic, Wadham College), and Henry Woudhuysen (Rector, Lincoln College).

*"I've been very involved in the workshops, especially on the last two days, and I have strongly appreciated the methodological approach to the history of libraries, combining the knowledge of the context and the experience of powerful digital resources."*

*"All the colleagues came from very different backgrounds, which was an invaluable richness."*

## Lincoln Unlocked lectures

A regular series of talks open to the public on topics related to the College's collections.

Previous talks include:

*College Library and Local History: The William Vesey Bequest (1755) and the Veseys of Oxfordshire* by Professor Peter McCullough (Sohmer Fellow, Tutor in English Literature, Fellow Archivist, Lincoln College).

*The Art of Discovery: the life and collections of Sir Walter Oakeshott (1903-87)* by Professor H.R. Woudhuysen, FBA (Rector, Lincoln College).

*Above (l-r): HEDFAS volunteer conservators; History of Libraries Summer School; Unlocking the Senior Library: early astronomy.*

## Workshops and education

*Lincoln Unlocked* works with other programmes and institutions to sponsor educational events for archivists, librarians, scholars, and the wider public. These include:

- A one-day workshop on historic European book bindings given by members of the Ligatus project and led by Professor Nicholas Pickwoad.
- *'Unlocking the Senior Library'*: These hands-on sessions provide the opportunity to explore the collection and see a part of the College normally kept behind locked doors. They are open to an assortment of visitors including school parties. Recent topics range from the Ancient World, Travel and Geography, to early astronomical texts (March 2014-present).
- *'The Unskilled Scribe: Elementary hands and their place in the history of handwriting'* (a seminar in the 'Ecritures cursives' series, sponsored jointly by Lincoln, the Bodleian, and APICES (September 2016).

The College participates annually in the Oxford Open Doors weekend, which makes accessible parts of the College, including its Library, not normally open to the public.

## Lifelong learning and professional development

*Lincoln Unlocked* aims to support development opportunities for researchers, students, archivists, and librarians. Voluntary positions are available and past volunteers have gone on to obtain positions at Trinity College, Cambridge and The Courtauld Institute. Recent projects have included digitising decorated paper bindings and cataloguing collections of 19th- and 20th-century poetry and prose.

The collections are open to individuals with a wide range of research interests. Personal appointments for consulting original records are available by contacting the Archivist and the Antiquarian Cataloguer for rare books.

For more information please contact: **The Development Office, Lincoln College, Turl Street, Oxford OX1 3DR**  
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